

## ABSTRACT

In data communication among a plurality of component units in an apparatus, transition state information

- 5 corresponding to a state transition which has occurred in a sending side unit is sent to a receiving side unit in serial communication. In the receiving side unit, a state control signal is regenerated at the time when a given delay time has elapsed from the occurrence time of the state transition.
- 10 Therefore, the state control signal can be sent in serial communication without any time skew. Also, in serial communication between the sending side unit and the receiving side unit, even if a control command signal is to be sent, in addition to the state control signal, a transition state
- 15 information can be identified from the received signal, by means of adding identification information to the sending information.